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SENSITIVE  
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FOR EAP/MLS AND DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREF PHUM](#) [PREL LA TH EUN AU](#)  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON HMONG CHILDREN: AUSTRIAN RESPONSE

REF: STATE 19444

This cable is sensitive but unclassified.

(SBU) Embassy conveyed reftel points on February 7 to MFA DAS-equivalent Peter Storer, responsible for South and Southeast Asia. We followed up with Storer on February 8. He confirmed that the GoA was aware of the situation as described by the UN. As current EU Council President, Austria plans to raise its concern over the plight of the children with officials in both Vientiane and Bangkok and request clarification of the childrens' status. Storer said the GoA believes a direct approach in the two capitals would be most effective. As Austria does not have an Embassy in Vientiane, it will work through the European Commission office there as well as through other EU member state embassies.  
McCaw